

I have long been concerned about consolidation of media, resulting in ownership of the majority of all media outlets by so few corporate conglomerates. With large corporations controlling so much of the public airwaves and so blatantly promoting their own commercial and political interests through their broadcasts and deliberate censorship of diverse ideas, the FCC has done far too little to prevent these abuses of the privilege of using our public airwaves.

The Fox "news" network is the most egregious abuser that comes to mind. More urgently, the recent news that Sinclair Broadcasting will force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and is an appallingly inappropriate use of the public's airwaves. This type of action is illegal and detrimental to a healthy democracy. Democracy depends on a free and fair media and will suffer greatly if corporations are allowed to dominate the airwaves with propaganda designed to serve their own political interests. What difference is there between large corporate monopolies over the media airing political propaganda serving selected powerful interests, and the state owned media propaganda machines of Stalinist Russia? Don't Americans deserve better? We deserve better and we demand better, it is our right to have a free and fair media.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It's decision to force it's local affiliates to pre-empt all programming to air its one-sided Kerry-bashing program, "Stolen Honor", do not serve the public interest and are harmful to our democracy. If they insist on airing such biased programming, they should in the interest of remaining balanced and impartial, air a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" shortly after. Or better yet, air news of more substantive value to the American people than either of these partisan programs. Let us view the information that is important and real, then decide for ourselves who is the better candidate without force feeding us all of this ridiculous propaganda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. I will most certainly be taking a more active role in monitoring the actions of corporate media like Sinclair Broadcasting and other large media conglomerates and watching closely to make sure the FCC does its duty to uphold the laws and protect the proper uses of the public airwaves. I hope you will take this matter very seriously. Thank you.